



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507  
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

# Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 11, 2005  
Week Ending: April 10, 2005  
CWP WA-CW1505

## Water Continued To Be In Short Supply Fruit Blooming Continued

### Field Crops

Early field preparation and weed control were limited by wet fields in most areas of the state. Recent rains improved conditions for dryland crops and winter wheat. Spring wheat planting proceeded. Whitman County small grain producers were able to finish up seeding but held off on pulses until temperatures warm up. Alfalfa was emerging and growing rapidly. Spraying on winter wheat and bluegrass was applied in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties. Potato, dry pea, and barley planting continued. However, water supplies were still very short in Benton, Yakima, Asotin, and Kittitas Counties. Concerns were expressed regarding the effects of halting water deliveries in the Roza Irrigation District. Subsoil moisture was still very low and additional rain was needed for both crops and rangeland in some areas.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7 % very poor, 23% poor, 24% fair, and 46 % good. Pacific County shellfish producers continued seeding and transplanting operations for oysters. Harvesting and processing of oysters and clams were underway. Calving was at 90 percent complete in Kittitas County. Snohomish and King Counties reported a 25% loss of overwintering honeybees. Pasture conditions improved due to spring moisture and warm afternoon temperatures started growth.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Stone fruit, apples, and pears continued blooming. Blueberries started to bloom. Whatcom County blueberry and cranberry producers reported some damage to their crops. Blueberry and cranberry buds fell off vines very easily. Frost protection has been necessary for early fruits in some areas. Pruning activities continued on young apple trees. Producers started to plant vegetables.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.4
Last Week	4.3

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	28	57	14
Topsoil 5 Year Average	2	11	78	9
Subsoil	24	40	35	1
Subsoil 5 Year Average	2	18	78	2
Irrigation Water	8	18	73	1
Irrigation Water 5 Year Average	0	7	93	0
Hay & Roughage	6	19	75	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	79	64	76	53
Spring Wheat Emerged	35	21	46	21
Barley Planted	48	31	67	36
Barley Emerged	20	8	31	11
Potatoes Planted	40	20	28	27
Potatoes Emerged	2	0	24	9
Corn Planted	2	0	17	9
Dry Edible Beans Planted	9	0	0	1
Proc. Green Peas Planted	39	15	52	19
Dry Peas Planted	18	14	34	11

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	2	27	57	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	8	78	14
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	70	30	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	29	71	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

- Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** It may be too early to declare an end to the drought, but this was the third week in a row with weekly rainfall in the three inch range and growers were beginning to complain about the rain. Field conditions were soggy and at least a week of dry weather will be needed to get equipment back out into the fields.

**Lewis:** It was a mixed week of showers and rain. Hail coated the ground earlier in the week. Peas were germinating.

**Mason:** Two inches of rain early in the week made a soggy beginning. Friday and Saturday we were able to work outside and a strong wind started drying things out. Pastures were ready for livestock.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Continued rains made field work limited. Pastures were wet, but will have plenty of forage available for animals when it dries out. Fruit trees were beginning to flower. Nursery stock was doing well and perennial plants were in good shape. The steady precipitation was making home gardeners happy by extending the planting season.

**Pacific:** Producers continued to be restricted in their field activities due to cold and wet conditions. Early field preparation and weed control was limited by wet soils, but pasture conditions improved somewhat with spring temperatures. Shellfish producers continued seeding and transplanting operations for oysters. Harvesting and processing of oysters and clams were well underway.

**Pierce/South King:** Another good week weather wise with light rain and partly sunny skies. No unusual situations to report, no report of crop damage due to weather events. Producers were busy planting vegetables and other field crops.

**Skagit/Island/San Juan:** Weather was mild with some rain showers. No crop damage was apparent at this time.

**Snohomish/King:** Previous heavy rains and heavy rain Monday and Thursday limited field work. There was standing water in several lowland fields. Pasture growth was good due to warmer weather and adequate moisture. Stone fruits continued blooming. Apples and pears were beginning to blossom. Losses of overwintering honeybees was around 25 percent. Local mason bees were hard at work.

**Snohomish/King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** So far, lowland areas received over twice as much rain as normal for the month of April. Inland areas received even more. A trace of rain fell nearly every day last week, and in some areas nearly 3/4 of an inch fell in one 24 hour period. Year to date totals were up by 42 percent to 72 percent for the area.

**Whatcom:** We received three good days of rain. Highs were in the mid 50's and lows were in the mid 30's. There was standing water in low spots of fields. Blueberries were starting to bloom. There were a few bee hives in blueberry fields. Raspberry canes were green. Some producers were reporting damage to raspberries. Buds were falling off the vine very easily. A cranberry producer reported that he had some damage to his crop as well.

## Central

**Benton:** Roza irrigation district was shut off because of lack of water in the Yakima River. Recent rain has not improved the drought situation much. Some frost protection was necessary for early fruit. Pollination weather was less than ideal.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** According to the Roza irrigation district, the water was shut down tentatively for about three weeks on April 6, 2005. It could remain shut down until further notice. The temperatures dipped down below 32 degrees for a couple of nights.

**Franklin:** Recent rains improved conditions for dryland crops. Where water was applied early, alfalfa was growing rapidly and appears in good health. Water supply for irrigated areas should not be a problem for Franklin County. Pruning activities continued on young apple trees.

**Franklin (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** March ended on a good note as is April coming in. Showers are expected to continue. The winter wheat crop was coming along very nicely, but there was noticeable lack of adjacent range grass. The rains were bringing out green but mostly in the form of broadleaf weeds and cheat grass which will help us recover what has already been lost. We still need more consistent spring rains to bring the winter wheat crop to an average county yield.

**Kittitas:** The rain and snow received in March came in at 108 percent of normal and helped maintain the water supply

level for the Yakima River Basin. However, it was reported that districts with junior rights, such as the Kittitas Reclamation District, will be given a cut of 66 percent of the water supply, which means they can use up to 34 percent of the normal allotment. The Kittitas Valley received yet another needed dose of moisture and weather predictions call for scattered showers for the next couple of days - we'll hope.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Some precipitation helped alleviate already dry conditions, but soils were drier than they should be for mid-April. Some mountain snow received was encouraging, but not near enough. Timothy fields were 4-8 inches high, some new seedlings were not so well-developed. There were not many livestock on pasture yet, calving was 90 percent complete.

**Lincoln:** Dryland winter wheat was looking good. There were showers in parts of the county, those showers improved the conditions for spring grains being planted. Due to drought conditions, there were some reports of circle irrigation water not being able to get as much water as in the past.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with .08 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. However, concerns were expressed regarding the effects of halting the water deliveries in the Roza Irrigation District.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Small showers on Monday were blown out by persistent windy conditions through most of the rest of the week, netting on real gains on the moisture front. Fruit growers noted that bloom was expected to be earlier than normal, a result of the mild winter. Some models had the bloom advanced by up to 12 days. Winter wheat continued to look good.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Winter wheat remained in mostly good condition as a few showers had been keeping up with the demand of the crop. Spring crop planting proceeded rapidly. Subsoil moisture was still very low and additional rain is needed for both crops and rangeland. Water supplies were still very short.

**Okanogan:** Despite recent moisture, subsoil moisture was still lacking. Grass root growth was minimal, showing the effects of continued drought.

**Pend Oreille:** Low temperature was at 17 degrees with the high reaching 63 degrees. Three days of precipitation with a total accumulation of 6/10th of an inch. Hay and pasture fields were beginning to show with annual rye approximately 1 inch high. Fescue and alfalfa were emerging.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** This past week was a typical spring weather week with a mix of rain, sun and a little snow. No field work had been done for about two weeks now. A little spraying of winter wheat and bluegrass was done when the wind was not blowing. Field conditions were still wet and some are concerned about getting back into the fields after such an early start. Frost at nights had been a concern for the

fruit growers up on Green Bluff with some stone fruits blooming. Pasture conditions should improve with moisture and the hint of warmer weather. Winter wheat looked pretty good, and were starting to see emergence of some of the spring wheat that was seeded 4 weeks ago.

**Stevens:** There was three to four inches of growth on pasture grass at the end of the week.

**Stevens (2nd Report):** Rain was received two days during the past week. Pastures and hay fields began to green up due to spring moisture and warm afternoon temperatures.

**Stevens (3rd Report):** Rainfall continued to help, but the area is still in need of more precipitation. Drier windy conditions have not helped total soil condition.

**Walla Walla:** Weather conditions were cool and mild. The area received another ½ inch of rain over night last Sunday the 4th. Temperatures were cool with heavy winds throughout most the week. Crops continued to look pretty good. With milder temperatures and recent rainfall, pastures and rangelands looked much improved.

**Whitman:** Many operations were finishing up seeding small grains but were holding off on pulses until temperatures warm up. Moisture conditions were fair with passing rain showers providing newly seeded crops needed precipitation.

**Whitman (2nd Report):** We were fortunate to have gotten good moisture and crops were looking good.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

April 11, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AV G	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	36	60	47	0	2	-4	0	0	0.41	-0.22	3	30.84	3.13	111	112
Everett	37	66	48	2	8	1	0	0	1.51	0.81	3	20.47	-7.26	74	111
Hoquiam	37	61	47	-1	4	-3	0	0	0.67	-0.52	5	44.27	-12.70	78	127
Kelso	36	68	49	3	9	2	0	0	0.41	-0.46	3	18.17	-18.84	49	83
Olympia	29	65	47	2	4	0	0	0	0.42	-0.45	3	29.73	-13.20	69	111
Sea-Tac	37	62	48	1	4	-3	0	0	0.20	-0.41	1	23.20	-7.58	75	94
Shelton	30	63	46	-3	4	-4	0	0	0.57	-0.54	3	43.04	-13.35	76	108
Tacoma	32	64	48	0	4	-3	0	0	0.26	-0.45	1	19.93	-12.15	62	84
Vancouver	34	67	50	2	11	4	0	0	0.83	0.13	5	20.08	-13.61	60	102
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	30	69	47	3	3	-4	0	0	0.18	0.04	2	4.10	-2.76	60	56
Stampede Pass	28	56	39	7	0	0	0	0	0.67	-0.63	5	49.93	-18.54	73	117
Wenatchee	35	65	49	1	6	-8	0	0	0.17	0.03	1	4.28	-1.86	70	48
Yakima AP	24	69	47	0	7	-3	0	0	0.02	-0.12	1	3.80	-2.35	62	51
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	27	73	48	5	2	-5	0	0	0.32	-0.03	2	13.31	-1.41	90	66
Deer Park	21	67	44	2	6	0	0	0	0.36	0.01	3	12.84	-0.23	98	78
Spokane AP	30	67	45	3	9	2	0	0	0.49	0.21	3	8.01	-3.68	69	63
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	28	68	49	1	13	0	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	3.20	-2.23	59	38
Moses Lake	30	70	49	1	13	0	0	0	0.06	-0.08	1	3.13	-2.30	58	36
Quincy	30	66	49	1	12	0	0	0	0.04	-0.10	1	3.07	-2.72	53	33
Ritzville	30	70	46	2	7	0	0	0	0.18	-0.03	1	5.71	-2.69	68	40
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	30	71	52	0	24	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	2.59	-2.34	53	31
Pasco	35	72	53	3	26	3	0	0	0.40	0.27	1	3.45	-2.27	60	43
Pullman	26	69	45	3	15	10	0	0	0.22	-0.16	3	3.82	-11.70	25	47
Whitman Miss.	35	72	51	3	15	1	0	0	0.50	0.22	1	6.79	-3.09	69	66
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	27	66	45	0	5	-1	0	0	0.04	-0.38	2	9.40	-9.27	50	53
Lewiston ID	34	75	52	4	22	7	5	5	0.25	0.01	3	5.54	-2.09	73	62

Summary based on NWS data.  
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004  
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>